

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are currently pending in the application. Herein, applicant amends claims 16 and 17.

In paragraphs 1 and 2 of the office action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-24 as being unpatentable over US patent 4,028,041 (Zambrano) in view of US patent 5,783,123 (Edwards).

A. Response to Rejection of Claims 1-15

The applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of independent claim 1, submitting that the Examiner has failed to make a prima facie case of obviousness. In particular, the applicant submits that Zambrano and Edwards, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all the limitations set out in claim 1. For example, claim 1 recites a pottery wheel that has an upwardly facing flat surface. A drive motor is "disposed, at least in part, above a plane of said upwardly facing flat surface".

Instead of have a drive motor as claimed, both Zambrano and Edwards have drive motors positioned in the traditional position fully below the pottery wheel turntable. For example, Fig. 2 of Zambrano shows the motor housing 64 fully disposed below turntable 18. *See Zambrano, Fig. 2, and explanatory text in cols. 2-3.* Edwards fails to overcome the deficiency of Zambrano, and fails to even disclose a drive motor for

providing rotation to the wheel head. Instead, Zambrano has a motor 127 that accuates a tilt mechanism for tilting a pottery plate "P". See *Edwards, Fig. 2 and col. 4, ln. 59 to col. 5, line 13*. Even though motor 127 is not a drive motor as claimed, the motor is postioned fully below the pottery plate P. *Id.*

In contrast to Zambrano and Edwards, the invention of claim 1 has the drive motor, at least in part, above the upwardly facing flat surface. Referring to Fig. 4 of the specification, the motor 150 is, in part, positioned above the top surface of the pottery wheel 114. This arrangement enables a sufficiently powerful electric drive motor 150 to be used, while still allowing a relatively short wheel-head height 102. Such a motor arrangement is contrary to known motor arrangements, as the claimed motor arrangement interferes with access to the pottery wheel. For example, ready access is available to the exemplary wheel head for only about 300 degrees, making it difficult or cumbersome to use the wheel from the other 60 or so degrees. See *Specification, paragraph 29, and Fig. 2*.

As discussed above, Zambrano and Edwards, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose all the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, and its dependent claims 2-15, are not rendered obvious by Zambrano and Edwards.

B. Response to Rejection of Claim 16

The applicant herein amends claim 16 to include the limitation that the drive motor is “disposed, at least in part, above a plane of said upwardly facing flat surface”. For the reasons discussed in Section A (Response to Rejection of Claims 1-15), the applicant submits that the Examiner will not be able to maintain a prima facie case of obviousness as to amended claim 16. As discussed in the Section A above, Zambrano and Edwards, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose all the limitations of amended claim 16. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 16 is not rendered obvious by Zambrano and Edwards.

C. Response to Rejection of Claims 17-24

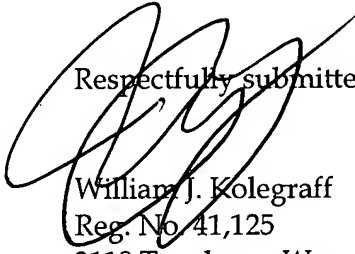
The applicant herein amends claim 16 to include:

a drive-motor in the exoskeleton and operatively coupled to said pottery wheel, said drive-motor being disposed, at least in part, above a plane of said upwardly facing flat surface;

For the reasons discussed in Section A (Response to Rejection of Claims 1-15), the applicant submits that the Examiner will not be able to maintain a prima facie case of obviousness as to amended claim 17. As discussed in the Section A above, Zambrano and Edwards, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose all the limitations of amended claim 17. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 17, and its dependent claims 18-24, are not rendered obvious by Zambrano and Edwards.

Conclusion

The applicant has reviewed the prior art made of record and not relied upon, and believes the pending claims are patentably distinguishable from all cited art. The applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1 - 24 are now in a condition for allowance. Any questions regarding this application may be directed to the undersigned.



Respectfully submitted,

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